

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 COTONO 00165 021623Z

65

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 FAA-00 OMB-01

ACDA-05 SIL-01 LAB-04 AGR-05 AID-05 TRSE-00 CEA-01

STR-04 CIEP-01 /112 W

----- 011185

R 021504Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8083

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NY

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 0165

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

ALSO PASS AFR/CWF

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ELAB, DM, US, XA, AO

SUBJ: BENIN GOVT-CONTROLLED LABOR ORGANIZATION CALLS FOR
AFRICAN BOYCOTT OF "IMPERIALIST" SHIPS AND PLANES

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 COTONO 00165 021623Z

REF COTONOU 149,

1. BENIN'S GOVT-CONTROLLED CENTRAL LABOR ORGANIZATION, UNION NATIONAL DES SYNDICATS DES TRAVAILLEURS BENINOIS (UNSTB), HAS CALLED FOR " THE IMMEDIATE CONOCATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ORGANISATION DE L'UNITE DES SYNDICATS AFRICAINS" (OATUU). PROPOSED AIM OF THE SESSION WOULD BE TO ORGANIZE A GENERAL BOYCOTT OF " ALL SHIPS, PLANES AND OTHER MEANS OF TRANSPORT COMING FROM OR GOING TO RACIST SOUTH AFRICAN OR THOSE OF ANY IMPERIALIST POWER SUPPORTING THE TRAITORS OF THE FNLA, UNITA, OR THEIR FACIST GODFATHERS." THE MOTION WAS READ BY UNSTB DEPSEC-GEN GREGOIRE AGHAHE IN THE PRESENCE OF PRES KEREKOU TO THE MASS RALLY JAN 29 IN SUPPORT OF A BENINESE EXPEDITIONNARY FORCE TO ANGOLA (SEE REF).

2. LEADERS OF ALL UNIONS WITHIN THE UNSTB HAVE BEEN CONVOKED TO A MEETING TODAY, 2 FEB. EMBASSY PRESUMES MEETING IS IN CONNECTION WITH THE BOYCOTT MOTION.

3. COMMENT: THERE SHOULD BE NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE TARGETED COUNTRIES. IF BENINESE MEDIA HAD NOT ALREADY MADE THAT CLEAR, TIAMIU ADJIBADE, EX-AMB TO THE US, NOW AMB TO W. GERMANY AND KEREKOU'S REP AT ADDIS, WAS EXPLICIT IN AN INTERVIEW CARRIED OVER BENIN'S OFFICIAL RADIO YESTERDAY. HE IDENTIFIED THE UNITED STATES AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AS "THE IMPERIALIST POWERS" TRYING TO KNOCK DOWN MPLA AND BACKING SOUTH AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA.

4. IN VIEW OF SOVIET INFLUENCE ON LOCAL LABOR LEADERS, IT IS POSSIBLE THE BOYCOTT IS A SOVIET IDEA THAT WILL BE LAUNCHED IN VARIOUS PRO MPLA AFRICAN COUNTRIES. WE INTERPREST THE LANGUAGE OF THE MOTION TO EMBRACE ANY AMERICAN FLAG VESSEL OR AIRCRAFT CALLING IN BENIN EVEN IF IT IS NOT ENROUTE TO OR FROM SOUTH AFRICA. IF SUCH A BOYCOTT SHOULD APPLIED IN BENIN, PANAM WOULD BEAR THE BRUNT (PANAM HAS ONE FLIGHT EACH WAY PER WEEK). FEW AMERICAN SHIPS CALL HERE EXCEPT TO DISCHARGE RELIEF GRAIN DESTINED FOR NIGER. IF THERE IS A BOYCOTT WE WOULD HAVE TO RECONSIDER SENDING GRAIN THROUGH COTONOU.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 COTONO 00165 021623Z

5. WE DOUBT THATTHE UNSTB MOTION IS ANYTHING MORE THAN A PROPAGANDA MANEUVER, WHICH IN ANY CASE WOULD TAKE SOME TIME TO LAUNCH IN OTHER COUNTRIES AND PERCOLATE THROUGH THE OATUU. WE DO NOT BELIEVE A BOYCOTT WILL BE APPLIED HERE UNLESS BENIN GOVT MANAGES THROUGH FURTHER RECKLESSNESS TO CAUSE CURTAILMENT OF AMERICAN AID.

6. WE ARE ASKING FORNMIN TO CLARIFY IMPLICATIONS OF THE

BOYCOTT RESOLUTION, PARTICULARLY THE LIKELIHOOD OF ITS APPLICATION AGAINST AMERICAN CARRIERS IN BENIN.

7. REQUESTED ACTION: WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING WHETHER THERE ARE ANY US LAWS OR POLICIES PROVIDING COUNTER-MEASURES AGAINST SUCH BOYCOTTS.
ENGLE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRANSPORTATION, LABOR UNIONS, BOYCOTTS, IMPERIALISM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976COTONO00165
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760039-0492
From: COTONOU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760189/aaaadasp.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 COTONOU 149
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BENIN GOVT-CONTROLLED LABOR ORGANIZATION CALLS FOR AFRICAN BOYCOTT OF "IMPERIALIST" SHIPS AND PLANES
TAGS: PFOR, ELAB, DM, US, XA, AO, UNSTB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006